pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.42 #494 Dec 2024

Happy Holidays!

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In this issue, Keith and Sonya: The radio interview

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1- Shades of Men 8pm-11pm
2- Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
3- Open Mic Night 6pm-9pm
4- Karaoke 6pm-9pm
5- Lydia Zavala Trio 6pm-9pm
6- Patrick Motto 8pm-11pm
7- Colt Wilbur Band 8pm-11pm
8- Line Dancing 6pm-9pm
9- Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
11-Karaoke 6pm-9pm
12-Music Bingo 6:30pm-8:30pm
13-Leblanc and Kissinger 8pm-11pm
14-Adrian Blitzer 8pm-11pm
15-Naughty Bingo 5:30pm-8:30 pm,
Naughty Santa Costume Contest 8:30pm-9:30pm
16-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
18-Karaoke 6pm-9pm
19-Free Jukebox and Pool 6pm-9pm
20-Roy Lee Band 8pm-11pm and Ugly Sweater Contest
21-HoHoHo Ladies Night with DJ Jim Mann 8pm -11pm
22-Justin Murphy 11am-1pm
23-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
24-Christmas Eve 7am-9pm No Taco's
25-Merry Christmas Open 11am-11pm
26-Free Jukebox and Pool 6pm-9pm
27-Tommy B 8pm-11pm
28-Matt Bowman 8pm-11pm
30-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
31-New Years Eve Party with Love Rocket 8pm-1am
Jan 1-Breakfast buffet and live entertainment starting at 8am and going on ALL DAY!

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REVERB

UPCOMING SHOWS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
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Founder- "Whitey" Lee Noll

Consulting Editor/Angel of design-Robin Noll

Owner/Publisher/Editor/Sales-Joshua Noll

Lead writer/Photographer/Sales- "Rachel Rocks"

-Staff Photographers-
Jim Price, Rachel Rocks, Meredith Kaminek
Chris Rider

-MOFO (Master Of Financial Operations)-
Missy Weidenhof

-Distribution-
Robin Noll, Josh Noll, Rachel Rocks, Jim Price, Keith Hummel, "Space", Deanne Trio, Randy Wilson, Shawn Kurey, Fuzz McGirk, Jimi Jaymz, Dan Mccorkle, Zac Grace, Imelda Redding, Jeff Pittinger, Sterling Koch, and whoever else we can talk into.

-Field Editors-
Jim price.....The Professor

Rachel Rocks.....Out & About

Eric Hoffman.....National

Chris Rider.....Rider's on the Storm

PA MUSICIAN MAGAZINE
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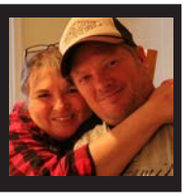
EDITOR RAMBLINGS

By Josh Noll



Ho Ho Ho and Merry Christmas! Welcome to the holiday edition of the PA Musician Magazine. It's hard to believe that in just a few short weeks, we'll be welcoming Old Saint Nick down the chimney and celebrating the birth of little baby Jesus. Time is flying, and before we know it, the year 2025 will be here! I remember as a kid thinking the future would be like Buck Rogers, with people living in space, discovering new worlds. Well, that hasn't quite happened—unless I get abducted by aliens sometime soon! But for now, I guess Earth life will have to do.

I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone in our music community for stepping up to support Chris Rider and Wendy Ellenberger after the devastating fire they suffered. The outpouring of support through GoFundMe and the two benefit events has been tremendous. Special thanks to HMAC and Lovedrafts for hosting these events, Chris Werner from HMAC, Nick Myers from 717 Entertainment, and all the bands who donated their time to perform. A special shout-out to Suicide Puppets for being at both benefits and always being the first to lend a hand in times of need. It was heartwarming to see the community come together in support of Chris and Wendy. Both events were filled with emotional moments and amazing music. I'm happy to report that Chris has started purchasing new equipment and plans to return with his regular article next month. In the meantime, check out pages 14-15 for some fantastic event photos by Rachel Rocks and Jim Price, along with a special note from Chris.

With the holidays here, it's more important than ever to support small local businesses. We're lucky to have so many great options in our area! Mike's Music, our longest advertiser, is still outfitting projects with top-notch pickups. Check out his ad in the classifieds and visit mikes-music-shop.com for all your DiMarzio pickup needs.

Guitars on Main in Mt. Joy has an impressive selection of new and vintage guitars, amps, pedals, banjos, ukuleles—you name it! They also offer repair services and lessons in a family-friendly environment. If you're in the York area, be sure to stop by Guitars on George and take advantage of his heavy clearance sale on guitars and amps. Jerry's collection is amazing, and he's looking to downsize, so it's the perfect time to grab a great deal. He's even been adding some of his vintage collectibles into the mix, so there's always something exciting to discover when you visit.

If you're in the Lemoyne or New Cumberland area, don't miss two fantastic shops just minutes apart: Player's Exchange and BL Custom Guitars. Scott at Player's Exchange has a guitar and bass collection like no other, plus a rock-and-roll memorabilia display that will keep you entertained for hours. While you're there, pick up a copy of his new CD, New Found Freedom: Unfinished Business—it's awesome! Right down the street in New Cumberland, BL Custom Guitars is another local treasure, offering new and used instruments, fast service, and a friendly atmosphere. Be sure to stop in and check out their inventory—or maybe even catch a jam session with Bill and Melody.

Want to do some online shopping? No problem! Many of these shops also have online stores. For example, Guitar-Villa.com offers a great shopping experience from the comfort of your own home—so you can shop local without leaving the couch. Don't forget about Creter Music, a longtime staple in the Jonestown/Lebanon area. They've just moved to a beautiful new store just three doors down on the square in Jonestown, so stop by and check out their wide selection of instruments.

Last but not least, if your guitar needs a little TLC, give Chris at Woodshed Guitar Works in Carlisle a call. Whether your axe needs a tune-up or a full repair, Chris is ready to help. And while you're there, say hello to "Rasta," his new shop dog! All of these fantastic shops have supported local music for years, so be sure to stop by this holiday season and spread the love.

That's it for this month! Get out there and support as many local businesses as you can. They all need your support, from the music stores to the venues that host live music to the bands that keep you entertained. If you'd like to support our small local business, give me a ring at 717-636-4203 or send me an email at joshnoll@pamusician.net. I'd love to tell you how you can get involved with PA Musician Magazine.

Happy Holidays, Peace on Earth, and all the things that make the season bright—BRING ON THE EGG NOG!

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12/12 PRIVATE PARTY
12/13 BUDDY BOY WINERY 6-9
12/14 HOLLYWOOD CASINO, GRANTVILLE 6-10
12/21 PARX CASINO, SHIPPENSBURG 8-11
12/27 EAGLES NEST, YORK 7-10
12/28 MOO-DUCK BREWERY, E-TOWN 5:30-8:30
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12/7 Noise for Toys The Markets at Hanover PA 7pm
12/14 The Burning Bridge Tavern, Wrightsville PA 8pm

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Stonewood

Sterling Koch

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Sat. Dec. 14, Vito's Coal Fired, St. Clair, 6:00 PM

Sun. Dec. 15, Rostas Cafe, Hazleton, 5:00 PM

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

Happy Holiday Season! So much to see, hear and do! It's gonna be 2025 before we know it! November was filled with live music, almost every day of the week. We are so lucky to have so many musical options all around us.

I kicked off the month on a Wednesday with a trip to Wolf Brewing to see Dave Gates, who had a surprise guest playing with him, Colin Alvarez. Both guys switched off singing, depending on the request, keeping us entertained all night long!

After handing out candy to Trick or Treaters with Cindy I headed up to The Doyle for Dr. Nyce. He was celebrating his 3rd release, his version of "Tupelo Honey". This song has a special place in my heart, because my Dad used to sing that to Mom all the time, but most importantly underneath a bridge along 443 when he was wooing her heart with his musical magic-ness after they first met. Dr. Nyce has all of his music streaming on all of the platforms, check it out, buy his merch, and support local music!

Dr. Nyce & Jason Mesica at The Doyle Hotel

The next night I zoomed up to Liquid Noise for the 176ers Dueling Pianos. I met up with the "Funnel of Fun" and we had the place going crazy dancing and singing along in no time! Cindy and I definitely pump a certain amount of energy to every show we go to! I was sent the best meme this month that said, "Find a best friend that makes people say, OMG, there's 2 of them!" That is definitely me and Cindy! We both love to dance and have a good time and our fun is contagious! And if we annoy you, I'm sorry.. but we aren't gonna stop! At this show we even had a guy make us a sign on a napkin that said,"Great job girls!" The 176ers Dueling Pianos are so much fun, and since it is pretty much an all request show, you really have no idea what's going to happen.

I left Liquid Noise early to head to the first benefit for Chris Rider and Wendy at HMAC. I made it in time to see the Groove Rebels rockin' on stage. I caught a glimpse of the Groove Rebels at the Joy to the Burg event last year, and I was equally as impressed the 2nd time around. Next up were the Martini Bros. They are always one of my faves, I've always loved every one of their shows I get to see. It was awesome to see and hear they have released new music! I love their rockabilly grooves! The last band of the night was Suicide Puppets. The Suicide Puppets did a lot to get both of the benefits together for Chris and Wendy, and their dedication to making our music scene stronger doesn't go unnoticed.

On a Saturday I headed to McSherrystown Moose for Imelda's birthday and Matt Jameson's show. The McSherrystown Moose is right down the street from the Bourbon Mill so after Matt's show we zoomed there for Steel's show. The Bourbon Mill has done some major renovations and they had a whole stage for full bands. It was awesome to see so many people there supporting this new venue and Steel. The dance floor was packed with people dancing and singing along. It has been far too long since I had the opportunity to dance and headbang with my friends!

It's always awesome to have a busy Wednesday night! My first stop was at Zhaga Coffee Shop for Stephen Robert playing solo. Zhaga, in Lemoyne, is one of my new favorite coffee shops. Not only is their coffee amazing, but their food is fresh and delicious! They have breakfast, lunch, and dinner too! It's awesome to have another cool spot for music and fun! I had the privilege to hear Marshall Stone play a song at Stephen's show. I've heard many awesome things about Marshall, but it was cool to finally hear him. Hopefully there will be more live music at Zhaga because I really felt like it was a great fit for the coffee shop, Stephen did a great job at keeping his levels where they needed to be and making sure everyone had a good time!

After Stephen's show I ran over to Matt Jameson's show at Flinchy's. It was my first glimpse at Matt in his kilt. Matt recently got into a sponsorship with Metal AF Jewelry, who not only makes amazing jewelry, but also sells kilts. Matt met them at the Children's Miracle Network event, and always wanted to have a kilt, so it was a perfect match. Marshall Stone also came over to Matt's show, so during Matt's break I got to hear Marshall once again! It was my lucky night!

On a Thursday after an amazing Cardio Bungee class at Spinning Harts we stopped in at Sturges Speakeasy for Hank the Buffalo. Always a fun night seeing these guys rockin' out. Sturges always gets a great crowd of people that love supporting music, so it's a win/win for everyone! Hank the Buffalo has been adding in more original songs into their set which is also super exciting to see and hear!

Friday was a busy day, but it's always worth it! After a

continued on next page...

STEEL
TOUR SCHEDULE
12/7 Littlestown Eagles, Littlestown 7pm
12/28 The Stables at Westminster MD 9pm
1/11 Bourbon Tavern, Freeland MD 7pm
1/25 Fireside Restaurant & Lounge
Hagerstown MD 7pm
3/1 Carroll Coon Club, Hampstead MD 8:30
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Out & About continued....

long day at work for BRP Entertainment I headed to Hollywood Casino for their special Veteran's Day night. Every part of the entertainment had a veteran on the stage. The Rumor Has it Band was playing in the H-Lounge, the DJ was Mark Stottsberry, and Penn Draft House had The Enlisted. I'm very thankful to all of our veterans, and it was cool getting to see them all share their other talents with us. After getting everyone settled at Hollywood I headed over to The DogHouse for Morning Glory. I only had time to listen to a couple songs, but I'm glad I caught them again because it turns out it was Megan's last show with them. She will continue to focus on the duo, Megan & Dave. Next we bopped over to Underdogs on 22 for Jason Carst. We came in dancing and made his last set the party set for sure! Last but not least we zoomed over to Flinchy's for the end of Hank the Buffalo. Our friends were there and we had too much FOMO so we had to go hang out for a bit!

Love Rocket

Saturday night I headed down to Riverhouse for DMC Duo. I haven't seen them since their big Josie Music Award Win for the EP of the Year for "Walk, Not Run". Such an amazing win for these two, and having their original music get the recognition it deserves. Speaking of which, the nominations for the CPMAs are open until December 21st. Make sure you nominate your favorites, even if your favorite is YOU.

Wed. 12/4 South County, York, PA, 6-9p
Fri. 12/6 Wolf Brewing, 6:30-9:30p
Sat. 12/7 Private Party, Harrisburg, PA
Wed. 12/11 Fenderz, York, PA, 6-9p
Fri. 12/13 Antietam Brewery, 6-9p
Sat. 12/14 Private Party, Dillsburg, PA
Tuesday. 12/17 Falls Crab Shack, 6-8p
Wed. 12/18 OPEN MIC Blue Sky, 6:30-8:30p
Thurs. 12/19 Sturges Speakeasy, 7-10p
Fri. 12/20 Carlisle Moose, 7-10p
Sat. 12/21 Maxie's Brewhouse, 7-9:30p
Mon. 12/30 Birthday Livestream, Time TBD
Tues. 12/31 Snapper's NYE Party!*
Ticketed Event: Tickets on Sale: 12/14/24
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Katz 22

Next I zoomed to Copper Pub for Roger Bowyer. It was his birthday show, so family and friends were there in full support. Roger's signature song is "Purple Rain" and I'm so glad I made it there in time to hear it. After Roger's show we zoomed up to Shermans Creek Inn for Love Rocket. 90s music is my jam and we had a blast dancing the night away! It always feels good when the energy is already filling the room and I just get to show up and join in the fun!

The weekend wasn't over yet, on a Sunday, Jimmy Jaxxx Shine Shack hosted a Salute to our Veterans with Vertical 4 Life. They had music all day with Jake Mach, Matt Jameson, and Cody Ross-Smith. I made it to the event in time to hear the end of Matt Jameson, and the beginning of Cody Ross-Smith. It was first time hearing Cody, who I've heard so much about, and I'm glad our paths finally crossed. Vertical 4 Life has really been doing a lot of great things to raise money for our veterans, you can check out their merch and donate through their facebook page.

I was able to catch Derek Henry and John Staz twice this month, once at Flinchy's and once at Copper Pub. Both places we had a good crowd show up to cheer them on, and make it one heck of a party. At Flinchy's it was awesome to get all the girls back together again. And at Copper Pub we had a nice, big rowdy bunch that kept us all laughing and having a good time all night long.

On a Friday night we went to Tequila Willies for Katz 22 Trio. Dr. Nyce was out on an East Coast Tour, but the rest of Katz 22 had no problem rockin' without him. Tequila Willies was absolutely packed. It took us a little while, but eventually Cindy and I got people up dancing and having a good time. This was one of those shows people kept saying to me, "and you're even sober!" hahaha! It doesn't take alcohol to make me bring out my dancing shoes!

Saturday night we ended our night at the Doyle Hotel for Hank the Buffalo upstairs in the newly renovated dining room. They added in a nice big bar, on one end, and they already have the stage on the other end, with plenty of seating in the middle. It doesn't really allow room for dancing, but we didn't let that stop us. We quickly got a group of people up dancing and having a good time. Hank the Buffalo also had Slade Heller on cajon, and he even played some guitar during a break. Slade was a great addition to their show. He really filled it in, and helped take their party to the next level. It was awesome to see that dining room so packed! We need more rooms for live music in the area, that's for sure! Downstairs at the Doyle is fun, but it's just so small. It helps to have room to stretch out!

Steel

Another musical Sunday Funday, I headed out to Lovedrafts for the 2nd Chris & Wendy Benefit. Another full day of talent! I unfortunately couldn't stay all day, but I did get there in time to see Lyndhurst, Hot & Dangerous, and a little bit of Cass & the Bailout Crew. It was awesome for all of the bands to donate their time and talent for these benefits, and I'm thankful to everyone who donated to their Go Fund Me. It's awesome to see the music community come together. It's also super awesome that Chris got a new camera, and has been able to get back to shooting shows to have a little normalcy in their lives.

The following week I was able to catch Crash & Cross out at The Doghouse. Crash had to find a new Cross since Damian had to move, but Dave and Wally have stepped up to play with Crash whenever necessary so the show can go on. When I saw them Dave was jamming with him. Crash has recently picked up the guitar and he's doing an amazing job. It was a great show and I'm glad I got there for a bit!

Stonewood

On a Saturday night I was able to finally work my way down to the Racehorse Tavern for Stonewood. I absolutely love Shannon's energy on the stage, and her voice is amazing! It's so much fun watching these guys because they are another band that keeps their dance floor packed and everyone is already always having a good time! Jimmy has done amazing things for music at the Racehorse. Bands always have great crowds there. People know they have plenty of seating with plenty of room to dance and have a good time! I'm so glad I was able to get down there!

Sunday Funday started at Wolf's Brewing Company for brunch with Matt Jameson. He had the place packed. It always amazes me how Matt can tailor his show to his audience. Wolf's loves and appreciates his sound control for their quiet brunch, but at other shows, it's full out party mode! Speaking of party, Matt will be celebrating his birthday with his first ever Livestream on Monday, December 30th. More details coming soon!! Also, New Year's Eve Day he will once again be rocking Snapper's! He plays from Noon - 3pm, so plenty of time to be home before midnight. This will be a ticketed event this year, tickets go on sale December 14th. Keep an eye on his Facebook page for all the details!

On a Tuesday night a trip down to Falls Crab Shack for Bob Patterson solo. When I got there I had the special treat of hearing Mike Eagan playing a couple songs with Bob. It's probably been a year since I saw him play the last time. It's kind of sad since he plays with so many different bands and plays so much with Ghost Light Radio Show, Nailed It Duo, Fell From Zero, and who knows who else! The guy is a maniac, all while still holding a full time job! We were having so much fun and sucked in a few new dancers! Falls Crab Shack is always an interesting time for sure!

The last night for this month was Thanksgiving Eve! Robin at Copper Pub snagged Matt last year to get this night on his schedule. He played an early show to a packed venue and we were all singing and dancing along. Then we jumped in the car and zoomed to XL Live for Observe the 93rd's headlining show. I missed the previous bands, but heard everyone was awesome! Observe rocked the roof off the place! I absolutely love seeing Derek do what he loves! They also played some new originals! Again so much amazing music pouring out of our local scene. The crowd wasn't completely packed at XL, but there were plenty of people there ready to party, and Observe the 93rd put on an amazing show!

continued on next page...

Jim Price, Josh Noll, Chris Rider & Rachel Rocks – a rare sighting

Well that's all the music for this month! December is packed full of birthdays and holiday celebrations in our family! I will be out and about when I can! Happy Birthday to my special baby boy, Mason Tyler! He turns 19 on Dec. 5th. Happy Birthday to my Mommy, and the Mother of this magazine, Robin Noll on December 18th, and her best birthday gift ever, Josh Noll, my big bro, and the boss of the magazine, celebrates his birthday on December 19th! I hope you all have an amazing final month of 2024.

Turn the page of this magazine, make a plan, and get out there and Support Local Music! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Pappy T's
PUB & LOUNGE

LIVE MUSIC! FRIDAYS 7-10 PM SATURDAYS 8:30-11:30PM

12/6 Havana Budda
12/7 Mystic Warrior 8:30-11:30
12/13 Durty Rotten Parrots
12/14 Eddie Bluestone 8:30-11:30
12/20 TJ Chupnick
12/21 Hambone 8:30-11:30
12/27 Vince Rollins
12/28 MXP 8:30-11:30
12/31 NYE w/ DJ Palko 8:30-12:30
1/3/25 John Fischer
1/4/25 Pawn Shop Bound 8:30-11:30

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MONDAYS IN December ~ 2,9,16,23,30
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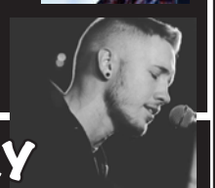
Saturday, Dec. 7th 6-9pm NATE MYERS

Friday, Dec 13th 6-9pm DOWNWARD DOGS

Saturday, Dec. 14th 6-9pm DEREK HENRY

Friday, Dec. 20th 6-9pm JASON CARST

Saturday, Dec. 21st 6-9pm BRETT ALEXANDER
Friday, Dec. 27th 6-9pm VAUGHN HUMMEL

Saturday, Dec. 28th 6-9pm RODGER BOWYER

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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! The live music scene has quieted as the weather changes and we near the end of 2024. However, Central PA continues to provide great local concerts including the Chris & Wendy Benefit Show at HMAC. A truly great night of friends to help PA Musician staff photographer, Chris Rider and his girl Wendy, as they lost their home in a devastating fire. Local artists who contributed their time included; Groove Rebels, The Martini Bros, Suicide Puppets, Gillian Smith and Shea Quinn. Skid Row Garage in York, PA has really been knocking out the shows this past month including The Virus (Nov 3), Anthrophobia (Nov 8), The Rumours (Nov 10) and Bobby Mahoney with The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters, The Jellybricks and The Martini Bros (Nov 14). Skid Row Garage opened a legitimate venue on Market Street in May 2023 after many years of doing underground shows in an alley garage on West Clark Ave.

Jeffrey Gaines

Legendary native, Jeffrey Gaines, played an amazing show on November 16th at Rivet in Pottstown, PA. Gaines continues to engage fans with intimate soulful shows playing his many popular songs as well as notable covers. The venue, Rivet: Canteen & Assembly is located in century-old downtown Pottstown building, New York Plaza and highlights the town's rich industrial heritage as well as plenty of rock n' roll memorabilia. Rivet is owned by members of alternative rap band, Bloodhound Gang, originally from King of Prussia and known for the song "The Bad Touch." Harrisburg University presents brought back indie folk rock band, Dawes, for a third time to XL Live in Harrisburg on November 20th. Dawes, popular for their hit song 'When My Time Comes' has played XL Live before in March 2023 and November 2021.

Post Malone announced he'll be embarking on "The BIG ASS Stadium Tour" in 2025, he'll be performing 27-dates starting at the massive Coachella Festival in California and then visiting Philadelphia, Washington DC and Hersheypark Stadium on May 28th. The tour comes in support of Malone's sixth studio album, "F-1 Trillion", and includes opening bands Jelly Roll and Sierra Ferrell.

Rod Stewart is bringing his "One Last Time" tour to North America in 2025 and will reunite with Cheap Trick as his special guest for 20 shows. Stewart is "not slowing down" in the sixth decade of his career. The two-time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inducted singer-songwriter has been busy this year touring Europe and Asia, along with releasing his 33rd studio album, Swing Fever. He also wrapped his record-setting 13-year Las Vegas residency, "Rod Stewart: The Hits." Nearby dates include Philadelphia's Mann Music Center July 12th and Columbia Md Merriweather Post Pavilion July 19th.

My Chemical Romance is bringing its breakout sophomore album The Black Parade to stadiums in 10 cities in summer 2025, having performed the triple-Platinum certified record in its entirety at the most recent 'When We Were Young' festival in Las Vegas. Gerard Way, Ray Toro, Frank lero, and Mikey Way will perform the full album in every city of the "Long Live The Black Parade" tour, with each show featuring a different, curated artist as the opening act. Dates include East Rutherford, NJ MetLife Stadium on August 4th and Philadelphia Citizens Bank Park on August 15th. The selected opening artists on single dates only are; Violent Femmes, 100 Gecs, Wallows, Garbage, Death Cab For Cutie and Thursday, Alice Cooper, Pixies, Devo, Idles and Evanescence.

Following the success of Linkin Park's reunion with new singer Emily Armstrong, Linkin Park is expanding their "From Zero World Tour" with 50 new dates across North America, Europe, Asia and Latin America. "Getting back out on the road has been incredible," Mike Shinoda said in a statement. "The fans' support is overwhelming, and we're ready to take this energy even further around the world. From Zero is a new chapter for us, and we're so excited to share it with everyone on a bigger scale." The band will be joined by special guests Queens of the Stone Age, Spiritbox, AFI, Architects, grandson, Jean Dawson, JPEGMAFIA and PVRIS on select shows. Dates include: Baltimore May 3, Philadelphia August 16th and Pittsburgh August 19th.

Quincy Jones, the multi-talented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic Thriller album to writing prize-winning film and television scores and collaborating with Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and hundreds of other recording artists, died at 91. Jones passed away November 3rd at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, surrounded by his family. He toured with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton, arranged records for Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, composed the soundtracks for "Roots" and "In the Heat of the Night," organized President Bill Clinton's first inaugural celebration and oversaw the all-star recording of "We Are the World," the 1985 charity record for famine relief in Africa. Jones acquired 28 Grammy Awards in his lifetime.

Coldplay have added two Indian dates to their 2025 itinerary, and they'll be their biggest shows yet: following three sold-out concerts at D Y Patil Stadium Mumbai (Jan 18-21), they will also bring the "Music Of The Spheres World Tour" to Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium for two shows, January 25th and 26th. This will be Coldplay's biggest ever show in the band's history with an official capacity of 132,000. As was to be expected, tickets for both concerts sold out within minutes, leaving many fans disappointed. Their concert in India is more than a testament to the band's legendary status; it is a reflection of how live entertainment is shaping India's cultural and economic fabric. As fans gather in Ahmedabad, this event will ignite a celebration that bridges regions, languages and cultures, proving once again that music knows no borders. Coldplay follows Taylor Swift as the only two artists to break $1 billion in a single tour, becoming the first band to surpass that benchmark.

Jefferson Starship will tour casinos and PACs across the U.S. on its "Runaway Again" Tour celebrating the band's 50th anniversary. The tour begins February 11th in Seattle and visits Annapolis, MD April 30th and concludes in Warrendale, PA on May 3rd. Jefferson Starship has recently been touring with the Marshall Tucker Band and in support of Deep Purple in Europe.

After suffering a stroke in Toronto on the evening of October 12th, alt-rock singer Matthew Sweet has canceled his cross-country tour. He was admitted to Toronto Western Hospital and he's now been transferred to a rehabilitation center near his home in Omaha, Nebraska, where he will undergo extensive therapy. Sweet's manager stated "Matthew has always been intensely focused and tenacious in all of his endeavors, I am confident that his signature determination will serve him well as he focuses now on recovery to good health."

Phil Lesh, a classically trained violinist and jazz trumpeter who found his true calling reinventing the role of rock bass guitar as a founding member of the Grateful Dead, died October 25th at age 84. Lesh was a critical member of the Grateful Dead whose thundering lines on the six-string electric bass provided a brilliant counterpoint to lead guitarist Jerry Garcia's soaring solos and anchored the band's famous marathon jams. "When Phil's happening the band's hap-

continued on next page....

The Rumors

pening," Garcia once said. After the group's dissolution following Garcia's 1995 death, Lesh often skipped joining the other surviving members when they got together to perform. He did take part in a 2009 Grateful Dead tour and again in 2015 for a handful of "Fare Thee Well" concerts marking both the band's 50th anniversary and what Lesh said would be the last time he would play with the others.

Iconic indie band Pixies will play doubles in a dozen U.S. cities — and two Canadian ones — for their 2025 tour. The band plans to play the albums Bossanova and Trompe Le Monde on night one in each city and a set of classics and selections from the new album The Night The Zombies Came on night two. The tour will hit Philadelphia Fillmore July 22-23 and Washington DC Anthem July 25-26. Kurt Vile & The Violators will support.

Irish rockers Fontaines DC are returning to America in 2025, in support of their fourth album, Romance, and a summer of sold-out shows across Europe and North America. The "USA Tour 2025" of 21-dates includes The Anthem in Washington DC on May 10th and Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City on May 16th. The band recently announced that their upcoming show at London's Finsbury Park, scheduled for August 2025, has also sold out of all 45,000 tickets.

Coachella announced its 2025 lineup early this year, with headliners Post Malone, Lady Gaga, Green Day and Travis Scott taking place April 11-13 and April 18-20 in Indio, California. Other notable acts scheduled to perform are hip-hop luminary Missy Elliott, Charli XCX, Megan Thee Stallion, Benson Boone, The Original Misfits, Zedd, Viagra Boys, Jimmy Eat World, Amyl and the Sniffers and more.

Lady Gaga returns to the mega-festival in the desert for the first time since headlining in 2017 to promote her seventh studio album, which will be released in February 2025.

The 14th edition of Welcome to Rockville in Daytona Beach, Florida, returns May 15-18 with what it is calling its largest lineup ever as North America's largest rock festival. More than 200,000 total attendees are expected at this year's rock and metal-focused event is topped by Shinedown, Green Day, Linkin Park, Korn, Rob Zombie, 3 Doors Down, Alice In Chains, Good Charlotte, Incubus, Pierce The Veil, Bad Omens, Marilyn Manson, Sublime, Knocked Loose and still many others, adding up to more than 150 bands on five stages over the four days of the festival.

Panic! At The Disco will headline the fourth edition of Las Vegas's When We Were Young in 2025, joined at the top of the bill by pop-punk legends blink-182, at the Las Vegas Festival Grounds October 18th, the lineup also includes Weezer, Avril Lavigne, The Offspring, The Used, All Time Low and Knocked Loose, Bad Religion, The Gaslight Anthem, Jack's Mannequin and others. Last year's festival was headlined by My Chemical Romance and Fall Out Boy.

DECEMBER CONCERTS: Anthrophobia - Harrisburg HMAC Dec 6. Junk Punk - Harrisburg JB Lovedrafts Dec 7. iDEFEATi - York Skid Row Dec 8. Menzingers - Ardmore Music Hall Dec 30 & 31.

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Keith & Sonya: the **WXPI** interview. The following edited interview contains excerpts from Keith and Sonya's interview on the **Rec Room Radio Hour**, courtesy of **WXPI 88.5**, Williamsport, PA. Hosted and interviewed by **Michael Lundy**.

Michael: We are so happy to have you on the show tonight and on the podcast!
Keith: Hey Mike, great, great to be here!
Sonya: Hi Mike, nice to meet you!!

M: Likewise, finally get to meet you. Give us a quick rundown Keith of where you've been, where you're at, and where you're going in just a little bit!
K: Absolutely Mike. Sonya and I have been pretty busy on the local scene and we slowed up over this fall and winter season. Over the slow down I put out a little E.P. It's Americana based. It's banjos and uprights and Mandolin…

M: Which is different for you! It's almost a 180 for you, is it not? Your album "Aspire," correct me if I'm wrong, was almost jazzy to an extent?
K:Yeah, it had a soft Jazz vibe for sure.

M: And now the songs you've gifted us and we've played are very Americana. They're stompy and thats like a 180 for you. You don't want them to sound the same.
K: No, I don't, and I think that as I grow and continue to record, that Im going to marry all of the styles together, so you might here Sonya's saxophone and the banjo and it may take on a bit of a Jazz or an Americana vibe.

M: That would work! And Sonya, you're all over "Aspire", correct?
S: Yes I am!

M: Tell us a little about you Sonya, because you've got a little musical back ground as well.
S: I was born in Williamsport PA. I joined the band in Elementary School and wanted to play the saxophone so bad but was told my hands were too small.

M: I see you have proved them wrong. Were your parents musicians?
S: My Dad was in a band and he played guitar and that was normal to hear in the house. My Mom played the accordion. I played the flute in school and then I just started picking up string instruments about five years ago.

M: I think maybe, with "Aspire" you were the inspiration for that Sonya, because it's very jazzy and very etherial.
K: That's 100% true and I think we're going to get back into that a little more going forward. Over the last year we leaned on the fiddle and made it a little more Country and

Americana and just the other day I pulled out a whole third instrumental record written based on the sax and said "I have to put these out soon too." I think we're gonna bring the sax back more prominently in the future and see where it goes.

M: "Pray" is a really great song that really captures your attention. What was the inspiration for it?
K: For the last several years Sonya's folks have been taking us up to the bluegrass festival up in Crossforks and I had just fallen in love with Bluegrass music over the last several years. That was the influence for the record in that I wanted to use all acoustic, Americana instruments and grab that vibe. These obviously aren't bluegrass songs, but the influence is there 100%.

M: Pray, when I played it the first time, I was like "whoa, that's way different," and I think that's good because it marks you as an open minded, open eyed, and open eared musician.

K: Im just trying to explore what's out there..I like it all and I'd like to think that some day I'm going to take all of these influences and put them together, but I'm just not there yet.

M: Sonya, are you hearing that it was you that influenced this whole Americana thing by pulling a fiddle out?
S: I think it was me, you're welcome! (All laughing)

M: I think this has been the first episode of the radio show where it's been mostly an interview that will be printed in a newspaper so thank you for breaking some ground for us.
K: Absolutely, and I'm so glad you're letting me do this where we are going to take this interview and use it as the cover feature in the December issue of the ***Pennsylvania Musician Magazine***, which we're really excited about doing because they're a great outlet that supports local music, just as you are a fantastic host and your station, WXPI 88.5 FM is also a great outlet for local musicians.

M: For the radio show, I have said this a number of times, we're really kind of carrying on Whitey's (Whitey Noll, PA Musicians Magazine founder) legacy in promoting local music because he and now Josh have been doing this for 40+ years.
K: I'm really looking forward to combining two, if not more of my favorite entities out there supporting local music, you guys have been great, which is a great segway into a third entity and the next song we're going to talk about which is, *"The Giving Season's Here."* The third entity is the **Central Pennsylvania Musicians Hall of Fame.** Every year CPMHOF does an awards ceremony awarding some of the more accomplished artists in our area. And again it's another avenue for local musicians to meet each other, to network, to get their music out there. I wrote *"The Giving Season's Here"* specifically for a project that they help curate, and that's the ***"Joy to the Burg" a*** compilation

recording of Christmas songs performed by local musicians. The Central Pennsylvania Hall of Fame, presidient, Brandon Valentine and that whole crew, help in this endeavor by connecting musicians and their music and help with marketing the project.

M: So, "The Giving Season's Here," where did that come from?
K: I very specifically wrote it for this "Joy to the Burg" record. When I decided to write something for "Joy to the Burg", I started with the banjo riff and the rest came from there. The lyrics for this one just came out. The theme behind it, its really about the darker side of the holidays and how it's not always easy for everybody.

M: Somebody told me there was an alternate title to this song?
K: Hahaha, yeah Sonya came up with it, what is your title?
S: Yeah, excuse my language but after hearing this song all summer long as he's writing and recording it, I've come up with a better title, I think, it's "*You 'aint Getting (bleep) for Christmas"*, That pretty much wraps up the song (group laughs)

M: They might have balked at that for "Joy to the Burg" (continued laughter). Anything else for "The Giving Season's Here" because we're going to play it right now.
K: Sure. If you like the song and you google ***"Joy to the Burg"***, check it out, the proceeds go to assisting the homeless and less fortunate in Harrisburg, and that's really what it's about. It's a double disc so you also get to hear a ton of Pennsylvania artists recording and doing their share for the less fortunate.

Special Thanks to Michael Lundy and WXPI and Josh Noll at Pennsylvania Musician Magazine for helping us put this all together.

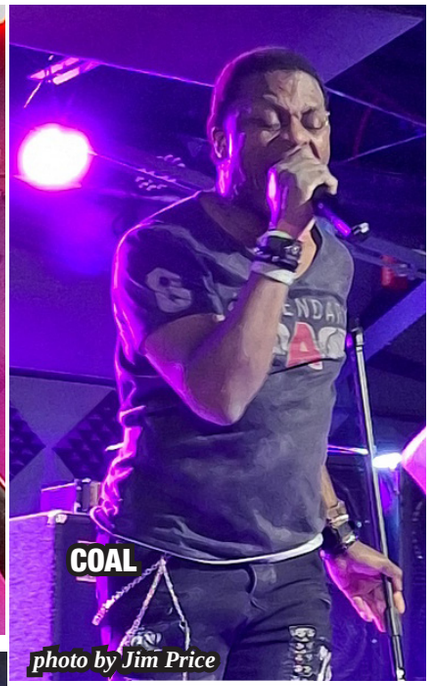
Keith, Sonya & Mike

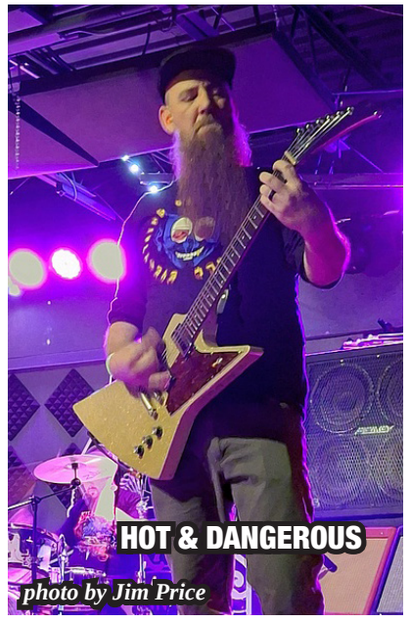
For the full interview, please visit ***https://www.buzzsprout.com/2111188/episodes/16084765.*** The **Rec Room Radio Hour** show can be heard each Tuesday at 6pm Eastern Time on **WXPI Community Radio, 88.5FM** and online at: **www.wxpiradio.org**
For info on Keith's original music or Keith n' Sonya's Acoustic Roadshow, please visit **www.keith-n-sonya.com** To order the ***"Joy to the Burg"*** recording, please visit **www.joytotheburg.com** or use the QR code below.

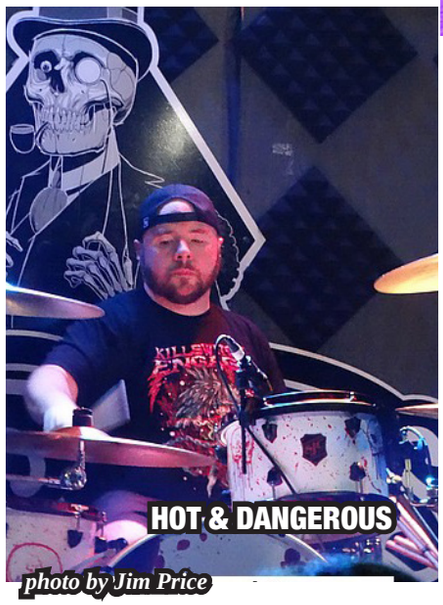
RIDER'S ON THE STORM

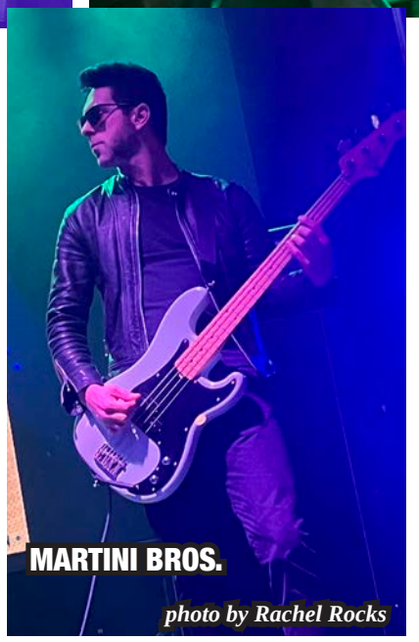
By Chris Rider

Wendy & I wanted to thank everyone involved in the most recent benefits that were held at HMAC and Lovedrafts Brewing. From the venues, to the bands, to the organizers, to everyone that attended...thank you so much. The money raised was nice of course...but honestly, what meant more to us was seeing everyone. The love & support that we've received throughout the last 2 months has been amazing and more helpful than we can put in to words. With money raised from the benefits, some of the GoFundMe, and some insurance money that has started coming in, I've started reacquiring the photo gear that I need to be able to get back out and cover shows. I'm happy to report that next month's edition will once again have a Rider's On The Storm article and I'm very much looking forward to it. We wish you all have excellent and safe holidays over the next few weeks, and we look forward to seeing you out there!









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THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

And just like that…the holiday season is here! Again, I eagerly anticipate slowing down my tempo during this special time of the year, enjoying friends and get-togethers, taking stock and being thankful, and recharging my batteries for 2025. I wish all of our PA Musician readers, friends and the state's music community a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year 2025 and pleasant holiday season!

As reported in last month's issue, my PA Musician friend and colleague Chris Rider and his partner Wendy Ellenberger lost everything in a structure fire in early October. Two benefit shows were held last month to help out Chris and Wendy; the first took place early in the month at the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center (HMAC). I was able to attend the second one, which happened at Lovedraft's Brewing Co. in Mechanicsburg. Brenden Starr and Lyndhurst opened the afternoon's music before I arrived, but I got there in time to catch much of Hot and Dangerous' set. This group – singer Erica, guitarist Reggie, bassist and singer Lauren and drummer Ben – packed some serious wallop into their rock; doing numbers spanning a version of Fleetwood Mac's "Oh Well" to Danzig's "Mother," Motorhead's "Ace of Spades," Black Sabbath's "Children of the Grave," songs from Smashing Pumpkins, Foo Fighters, original tunes and more. Erica displayed a potent voice and presence, and the rest of the group provided the powerful backdrops behind her. Next up was Cass and the Bailout Crew, who performed a strong set of original songs mixed with some select classics. After opening with their original "Lover," singer and

Chris Rider & friends at Lovedrafts

namesake Cass Chatham dazzled the house as she belted all-out heart and soul on the Jefferson Airplane double-shot of "Somebody to Love" into "White Rabbit." Cass, guitarist and singer Mike Steppe, bassist Nick Laylon and drummer Mike Wrench introduced some of their new numbers such as "Hurricane" and the scathing "Die in Pain," and closed their set with Joan Jett's "I Hate Myself for Loving You." York-based fivesome Coal then delivered their set of high-powered, groove-driven original rock. Singer Dal Dawn brought purpose, intensity and charisma on the microphone as he led Coal on hard-hitting originals such as "Sick Like Me," "Ugly," "Nothing to Lose," "Worst Enemy," the new number "The Color Gray" and more. A special and emotional highlight during Coal's set was when Dal presented Chris Rider with a painting by Donna Jones Sanders to replace a similar piece lost in the fire. And Harrisburg's Suicide Puppets finished out the benefit with their distinctive brand of industrial heavy metal brutality. Lead snarler Twisty Suicide, lead guitarist Steven Suicide, rhythm guitarists Invictus Suicide and Z Suicide, and drummer Veritas Suicide rampaged through original song creations such as "Your Love My Hate," "Pethumanhead," "One Way to Die" and others, as well as a volatile version of Golden Earring's "Twilight Zone." Suicide Puppets' blend of metal punishment and theatrics kept the audience riveted for the duration. The variety of rocking flavors and the prominent theme of the area's musical community in support of Chris and Wendy made this a heartfelt and memorable afternoon.

Eight bands and performers donated their talents early last month during the "Knock Out Cancer for Rod Patterson" benefit, which took place at Altoona's Newburg Fire Association Social Hall. Proceeds helped out Rod, a longtime contractor and coach/trainer for the Altoona Boxing Club, who is battling stage 4 prostate cancer. Leading off appropriately with Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger," 7th Virtue began the music with their upbeat mix of rock and pop classics spanning the 1970s through 1990s. New keyboardist Therese Perino and rhythm guitarist Dale Perino have joined singer Lynne Wigand-Deyarmin, lead guitarist Rob Lynn, bassist Steve Everett and drummer Randy Deyarmin; the group rocked the arriving crowd with numbers from Quarterflash, Joan Jett, Loverboy, Janet Jackson, Heart, Wild Cherry, Badfinger and more. My crew, the Backyard Rockers, followed with our own acoustic blend of classic rock, folk and country. Singer and guitarist Rich Dasch; guitarist, harmonica

Kip Woodring of Bone Jacked

player and backing vocalist Peter Wolf, and yours truly on hand percussion and backing vocals did numbers from Tom Petty, Faces, The Band, Steve Earle, the Beatles, Old Crow Medicine Show and more. Joyful Noise Acoustic – the pairing of singer Steve Oswalt and guitarist Ben Eberhart – then followed with their blend of songs from Paul McCartney & Wings, the Beatles, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Doors, Led Zeppelin and more. 100 Proof then shifted the musical gears into country mode, Singer RJ

continued on next page...

Guest Rich Dasch with Bone Jacked

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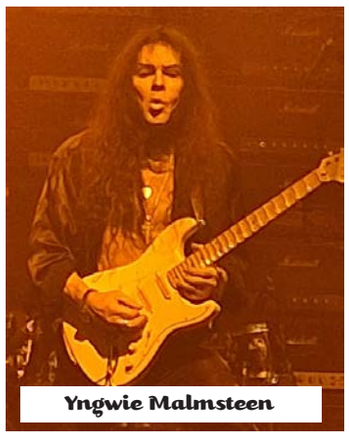
Payne, lead guitarist Todd Belardi, rhythm guitarist Denny Yon, bassist Moose and drummer Dave Russell helped kick up the dance floor activity with favorites from David Lee Murphy, Toby Keith, Eric Church, Bryan Adams, Rick Springfield and more. Fortune & Glory followed with their mix of rocking classics, keeping the dance floor busy with their versions of favorites from the Knack, Better Than Ezra, Tommy Tutone, Scandal, the Police, Grand Funk Railroad and others. Huntingdon-based quintet Downfall kept the rock coming with their set of classics from the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Singer Jason Satta, guitarists Jeremiah Shafer and Dusty Sipes, bassist Beau Cabassa and drummer Zach Roll mixed up songs from Poison, Weezer, Kiss, Collective Soul, Ted Nugent, White Zombie, Twisted Sister, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Buckcherry and more. Playing their first show, Altoona's F.N.A. generated more rocking favorites. Singer and guitarist Rob Hiles, guitarist Ron Hiess, bassist Fritz Wyland and drummer Jamie Shumac sounded good on their maiden voyage as they rocked the house with tunes from Red Hot Chili Peppers, the Clarks, Queen, U2, Pearl Jam, Velvet Revolver, Judas Priest and others. Closing the benefit was Bone Jacked, who helped organize the benefit plus provided backline and production for the day. Singer and guitarist Kip Woodring, bassist DJ Gates, guitarist Chris Guella and drummer Terry Wilt generated more dance floor activity with classic rock favorites from the Stray Cats, Eagles, Tom Petty, John Mellencamp, ZZ Top, T. Rex and more. The Knock Out Cancer benefit saw a great turnout as the community showed their support for Rod Patterson in his battle.

100 Proof

Besides at the aforementioned Knock Out Cancer benefit, I also got to see Bone Jacked as they were the first live band to initiate the new Funky Claud's, the latest incarnation of the former Club Kryptonite, 30 Something, City Limits and New Sebastiano's venue in Altoona. Bone Jacked again reliably delivered the classic rock over three sets. This band's presentation is always heartfelt, and you can tell these guys live to be on the stage and playing their music. Frontman Kip Woodring frequently ventures out onto the dance floor to make his guitar sing to the crowd, and Bone Jacked will often ride the muse and extend songs into hearty and energetic jams; this night generating a heated jam on Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Green River." Their effort was not lost on the audience, who applauded and showed their appreciation of Bone Jacked's enthusiasm this night.

When opportunity presented itself (in the form of a free ticket, Thanks Tina!), I got to journey to the Oaks Theater in Pittsburgh's Oakmont suburb to again witness Swedish guitar virtuoso Yngwie Malmsteen during his 40th Anniversary Tour. With a wall of Marshall stacks behind them, Chase The Comet opened the night. This group's story began in 2016 when their founding members – singer Nika Comet and guitarist Alexander Mishustov – left Moscow, Russia and settled in Los Angeles. Now joined by Anton Yalovchuk on drums, Chase The Comet entertained the crowd with their sharp, alternative-edged rock sound. The group did a number of original songs, including "Hero," "First Time," "Rage Inside," "Gone" and more. Nika's voice and cordial stage persona won over the audience, and Chase The Comet was well-received. Yngwie Malmsteen and his band soon surfaced on the stage, and he immediately started showcasing his fast and furious guitar talents as he blended elements of heavy metal and classical music. Shortly into his set, though, Yngwie scolded the spotlight operator for not keeping the light trained on his guitar as he made his way around the stage. This may have worked for the benefit of the audience, though, as Yngwie's guitar playing seemed to become more intense and his face looked more determined from that point onward. His performance ran the gamut from fast and furious to mild and reserved and everything in between, and it was amazing to observe his fingers masterfully work the strings. I didn't recognize all of his selections this night, but he did perform a rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner," versions of Deep Purple's "Smoke on the Water" and Jimi Hendrix's "Red House," and I recognized a few of his original numbers such as "Evil Eye" and "You Don't Remember, I'll Never Forget" to end his main set. When the crowd called for the encore, Yngwie started into an acoustic guitar exercise first, which evolved into his popular instrumental "Black Star."


Yngwie Malmsteen

Nika Comet of Chase The Comet

Penn State Altoona's Wolf Kuhn Theatre inside the Misciagna Family Center for the Performing Arts provided the setting for the live music and theatrical production "Flights of Fancy and Other Modes of Transportation" in late October. The production – arranged by Bonnie Cutsforth-Huber and KT Huckabee – centers on a dream sequence as the dreamer – played by Adria (Jay)Schmidt – envisions a sequence of vignettes each tied to an assortment of popular songs all themed or connected with forms of transportation. Local rockers The Pines – this night Daman Mills on lead vocals, bass and keys; drummer Ben Brumbaugh and guitarist Logan Warner – performed the songs and song backdrops, spanning such hits as Steppenwolf's "Magic Carpet Ride," America's "A Horse with No Name," the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine," the Hues Corporation's "Rock the Boat," Queen's "Bicycle Race," Tracy Chapman's "Fast Car," Prince's "Little Red Corvette," Gladys Knight & the Pips' "Midnight Train to Georgia" into the O'Jays' "Love Train," Elton John's "Rocket Man" and more. After curtain call, The Pines ended the show by playing their own original, "Shoot to Kill." This was a fun presentation, and for me it was fascinating to see these young performers interpreting songs that were mostly created years before they were born!

New Americana music performers One Acre West made their onstage debut in late October to preview songs from their forthcoming album at Pine Grove Hall in Pine Grove Mills. Several members of this group – singer Kristi Jean, guitarist Steve Branstetter, drummer Sean Hershey and bassist Chris Gallagher – played together previously in Kristi Jean and Her Ne'er Do Wells; they are joined by keyboardist and accordion player Bill Ritzman and – performing in her first band – singer Megan Irwin. One Acre West mixed a wide variety of musical roots flavors into their collective sound, including elements of folk, rock, country, blues, and even zydeco on one song. The group introduced and

continued on next page...

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performed many songs from the upcoming album; including "Bitter Pills," the folksy waltz "Dance Floor Romance," the bluesy "Home By 9," the uptempo country-flavored "Long Haul Lady," "Six of One" and others. They also did several cover selections in their own rootsy flavor; including Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide," Tom Petty's "Free Fallin,'" Bruce Springsteen's "Dancing in the Dark," Kris Kristofferson's "Help Me Make It Through the Night," the Rolling Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want" and more. One Acre West's performance was strong; Kristi Jean and Megan blended their voices for some great-sounding harmonies, and instrumentally, each musician's contributions worked in tandem to serve and support each song.

Jim Bauman & Toby Mercer of Second Hand Monkey

I caught my first look at rising area party-rockers Second Hand Monkey in late October at Altoona's 4D's Lounge. Featuring lead singer and keyboardist John Bauman, bassist JR "The Worm" West, lead guitarist Toby Mercer and drummer Toby Hunter; Second Hand Monkey played a mixture of rock and pop favorites spanning the 1980s and 90s. The group kept the dance floor busy with tunes from Duran Duran, Rick Springfield, Bon Jovi, Billy Idol, Nena, Lit, Poison, Garth Brooks, Georgia Satellites and many more. Second Hand Monkey played it all with lively enthusiasm, setting the tone for a fun show. Watch for Second Hand Monkey's return to the 4D's, as well as other area stages in 2025.

Coming up on 30 years of serving up "80s cheese" and other popular songs to audiences spanning Happy Valley to throughout the Northeast, State College's Velveeta paid their latest visit to the 4D's Lounge last month. Singer and guitarist Brian Kriley, bassist and singer Adam Becker, keyboardist Brent Martin and drummer John Harper presented a balanced mixture of rock and pop favorites from the 1980s, with a touch of 1990s thrown in. They kept the dance floor busy with songs from Third Eye Blind, The Cure, Violent Femmes, Hall & Oates, Def Leppard, George Michael, Fountains Of Wayne and more. Velveeta cranked up the rock a few times with renditions of Rush's "Tom Sawyer," Living Colour's "Cult of Personality" and Van Halen's "Hot For Teacher," and honored a request for Motley Crue's "Home Sweet Home." And toward night's end, the group performed Rusted Root's "Send Me On My Way," with John Harper delivering a rowdy drum solo display midway through. Watch for Velveeta in your neighborhood, and prepare for Velveeta's 30th birthday party at Stage West in State College on August 9, 2025!

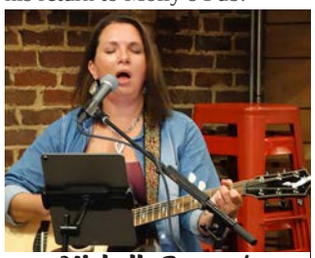
Adam Becker of Velveeta

Emily's ToyBox brought their brand of rocking fun and mischief back to Altoona's Concordia Society last month. The seasoned cast of frontman Mike Wise, guitarist Brandon Reece, bassist Rick Lienhard and drummer Muff mixed a wide assortment of rock and pop hits and favorites, sometimes doing the unexpected. Some of their chicanery this night included transitioning Wild Cherry's "Play That Funky Music" into Metallica's "Creeping Death," turning their version of "Mony Mony" into Kiss' "Rock and Roll All Night," and teasing the intro to Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's "Fishing in the Dark" before heading into Queen's "Fat Bottomed Girls." Mike improvised lyrics on the spot several times with hilarious results, and he led the crowd on gang shout choruses during the popular Emily's Toybox original "Back of the Bus to close the night. Emily's Toybox returns to the Concordia on Feb. 8.

Mike Wise of Emily's Toybox

Nick Price

Becoming a monthly performer at Molly's Pub in Altoona during recent months is Wiley Ford, West Virginia-based singer, songwriter and "Cowboy" Nick Price. Singing and strumming guitar, Nick's primary flavor is country; but as this night showed, he isn't a one-trick pony. As I arrived, he was doing country numbers, including the Toby Keith double-shot of "How Do You Like Me Now" and "Ain't Much Fun Since I Quit Drinking," Robert Earl Keen's "Merry Christmas From the Family" and Alabama's "Dixieland Delight," before ending the set with Rehab's "Sittin' At a Bar." Nick began to fire up the crowd during the next set, mixing some country favorites with tunes by Steve Miller Band, Georgia Satellites, and by set's end, a reggae/rap rendition of Merilee Rush's "Angel of the Morning." From there, Nick got wilder with versions of Buckcherry's "Crazy Bitch" and Kid Rock's "Cowboy," a rowdy take on Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll," a country take on Snoop Dogg's "Gin and Juice," and even Puddle Of Mudd's "She Hates Me." The Molly's crowd loved it, enough so that they passed the hat around to keep Nick playing longer. From rural to rowdy, Nick Price can fire up the crowd; watch for his return to Molly's Pub.



Michelle Barnes/ The Silver Lingings

Other shows I caught recently were the Halloween night doubleheader at McGarvey's with The Zuds and Toy bringing their respective brands of rock; the Halloween costume contest was one of the better ones I have seen in recent years…Also the Silver

continued on next page...

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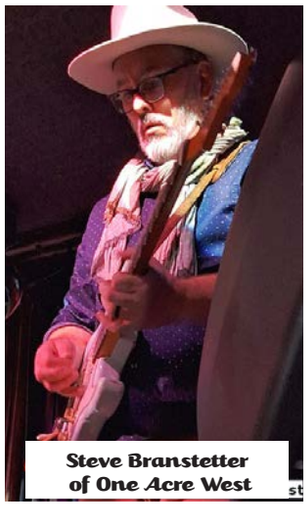
Linings at Altoona's Levity Brewing Co.; one half of the duo, Rick Wertz, was a little under the weather, so singer and guitarist Michelle Barnes was joined instead by drummer and singer Doug Stephens. The two both sounded good this night, and even had folks up and dancing before all was said and done.

The area music scene was saddened by recent passings… Fred Lake, a founding member of longtime area rock'n'roll band White Shadow, passed away on Oct. 3rd in a hospice near Downington after battling three types of cancer…Longtime Altoona area musician and radio broadcaster Craig Boore passed on Nov. 1. Craig had been involved in the music scene since the 1970s, and played bass for several bands including Pulse and Back To Zero. Craig was known as radio air personality Craig Andrews, whose voice was heard on several Altoona area radio stations. Craig was also the father of Sweet Desire drummer Trey Boore… And the music scene was saddened by the unexpected passing of Northern Cambria's Ken Pompa on Nov. 17; he was 77. Ken was an active member of the area music scene during the past four decades and played with a number of band projects; among them Double Take, Triad, Jerry's Fault and others. More recently, Ken sang and played guitar alongside his cousin, Denny Pompa, in the Denny & Ken acoustic duo…Our thoughts go out to the families and friends of all three musicians.

Kristi Jean of One Acre West

News and notes…An arrest was made last month in the February 2023 murder of Lance Ross, the owner of the Freight Station bar and live music venue in Johnstown; Johnstown police announced that 53-year-old Tami Shafer of Latrobe faces criminal homicide charges, along with charges of aggravated assault, recklessly endangering another person and tampering with/fabricating physical evidence…Johnstown-based singer and songwriter Dan Stonerook heads to Nashville this month to record a new EP with some notable Nashville-based musicians; Dan started a funding campaign on his Facebook page to cover travel costs and paying for studio time. A minimum donation of $10 will earn donors a copy of the new EP plus copies of Dan's previous two solo albums, the funding campaign lasts until Dec. 24…The Lee Miller Experience, Electric Swamp, Abstentious, Negan and Alice In Chains tribute Deny Your Maker will donate their talents to the "Toys For Tots Concert 4 and Toy Drive," taking place Dec. 14 at the Hastings Memorial Building in Hastings; the music starts at 3 p.m. and a basket auction and free pizza party will also take place. Donation at the door is a new, unwrapped toy or a cash donation…Drummer Steve Holtz announced his decision to step away from area alternative rock band Paper Plants…Longtime Altoona-based Christmas season performers Jack Frost and the Frostbites have issued their first CD; the album, called "Songs From the Back of a Truck," can be purchased and downloaded through their website and at their area performances this month – including their annual "Flight of the Frostbites" area neighborhood tour around Blair County "from the back of a truck" on Dec. 21…Danville-based singer and songwriter Van Wagner has released his 34th album called "Harrisburg Blues," featuring guest appearances from Matt Harrison on mandolin and fiddle, Bill Stetz on upright bass, Kate Anderson-Twoey and Zoey Wagner on vocals, Steve Treado on pipe organ and Kevin Briggs on guitar. The release party for the album will happens Dec. 5 at the Elk Creek Cafe in Millheim.

Denny & Ken Pompa at the Castle Pub March 2021



Steve Branstetter of One Acre West

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